

REMARKS

Applicant submits this Amendment in response to the Office Action dated January 6, 2006, in which the Examiner (1) objected to the drawings, and (2) rejected most of the claims on the basis of prior art. Applicant will address these points below.

Turning first to the claims, the Examiner indicated that claims 1-10, 12-21 and 24-25 are either anticipated by or rendered obvious over the cited prior art. In particular, the Examiner rejected claims 1-7, 12-18 and 24-25 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 1,178,817 to Murton, and rejected claims 8-10 and 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Murton. The Examiner indicated, however, that claims 11 and 22-23 contain allowable subject matter, and would be allowable if rewritten so as not to depend from the rejected claims.

Applicant appreciates this indication of allowability, and in substance applicant has amended the claims as suggested by the Examiner. However, rather than rewrite claims 11 and 22-23 so as not to depend from the rejected claims, applicant has amended independent claim 1 so as to incorporate therein the limitations of claim 11, which has been cancelled, and applicant has similarly amended independent claim 12 so as to incorporate therein the limitations of claim 22, which has also been cancelled;

claim 23, which formerly depended from claim 22, has been amended to depend from independent claim 12.

Although the Examiner did not indicate that claim 24 would be allowable if rewritten, nevertheless applicant has amended claim 24 so as to incorporate the same limitations therein as were previously recited in claim 22, and which have now been added to claim 12. Applicant submits that, as presently amended, claim 24 is also allowable over the cited prior art.

In addition to the foregoing claim amendments, the limitation recited in claims 5 and 16, that the perforations are distributed over the collar portion of the sink cavity, has also been incorporated into claims 1 and 12, respectively, and claims 5 and 16 are therefore being cancelled. Moreover, claims 4 and 15, which were directed to an alternative configuration in which the perforations are distributed over the "entirety" of the sink cavity, have been cancelled as well, without prejudice, thus at the same time rendering moot the Examiner's objection to the drawings. Finally, claims 13 and 25 have been cancelled in their entirety. Some of the other claim dependencies have been adjusted as a result of the cancellation of claims 4, 5, 13, 15 and 16.

The Commissioner is requested to construe this paper as including a retroactive petition for a three-month extension of time in which to file a response to the

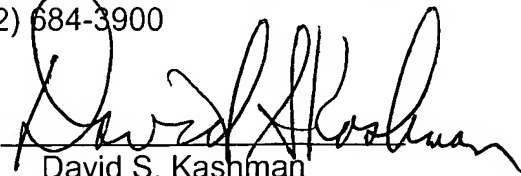
outstanding Office Action, and accordingly, a check for the official fee of \$510.00, as prescribed therefor by 37 C.F.R. §1.17(a)(3), as amended, in the case of a small entity, is submitted herewith. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional extension fees which may be required, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-1730.

Applicant has responded herein to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Office Action, and applicant has amended the claims in an earnest effort to place this application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, further favorable action in connection with this patent application is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone if it will advance the prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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Docket No.: 4631/008

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on:

Date of Deposit June 20, 2006

David S. Kashman; Reg. No. 287725
(Name of applicant, assign or Registered Representative)

David S. Kashman
(Signature)

June 20, 2006
(Date of Signature)